

William Lillard to Andrew Jackson, December 26, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIAM LILLARD TO JACKSON.1

1 Lillard commanded the 2d Regt. East Tennessee Volunteers, under Gen. John Cocke. This letter was copied in Jackson MSS., Letter-Book C, p. 136, with other related matter.

Fort Strother, December 26, 1813.

Sir , In obedience to your order of this days date I have consulted the officers and men composing my regiment and have receiv'd for answer the following 1st. they volunteerd, in the service of their country for three months, and were to look to our own state to compensate them for their services, they march'd to Fort Armstrong, and were desirous to meet the Enemy, the commdg officer at that place order'd my regiment to build a garrison and some boats to transport provision to this place, on which duties the regiment was employ'd twenty five days. 2nd. Genl. Cocke inform'd the Regt. he had recd orders from Genl. Jackson to join his army etc in ten days, we would have the whole creek nation under our feet—shortly after this my Regt. came to this place, and directly after our arrival a number of the troops from West Tennessee march'd home, and two Regts. of their brethren from East Tennessee were order'd back to be discharg'd, and 3rd. they have been at this place fifteen days, which is the precise time Genl. Cocke promis'd this regiment to march them back from this place to Fort Armstrong. Under this impression, the Regt. left their cloathing, camp equipage etc. at Fort Armstrong, and at this time there is not more than two days rations of meal, or flour at this place and to march at this season of the year through a flat, marshy country, wading creeks and rivers for the distance of one hundred miles, and then be disappointed in meeting an enemy, as we have heretofore

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been, and then have at least five hundred miles to march home, without shoes is more than this Regt. is willing to bear, and during the months of Jany and Feby 1814, the regiment are induced to believe, if they were to go to the Hickory ground, or join Genl Floyds army they would not have an oportunity of seeing the enemy, by the 14th. of Jany 1814 in which day, this Regt. is entitled to their discharge. I am Sir respectfully Your Ob
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